

June 8. The 27th of April was a Day of such *Rime* and Storms of *Snow*, that we could not see one of our own Squadron but once, towards the Evening. The Method of keeping Ships together on such Occasions, is either by *lying-to*, or by firing *Fog-Guns* every half hour that they make Sail. *Le Prudent* and some other *French* Men of War, having made the Land the Day before, stole unperceived along Shore to the Mouth of *Louisbourg* Harbour, with the greatest Security, from having heard our *Fog-Guns* at a Distance, as they have since told us. Now, what *Prudence* or *Vigilance* could possibly have prevented what, you see, was out of the Power of both?

Let me add another Instance to give you some Idea of the Thickness of the *Bank-Fogs* on the Coast of *Cape-Breton*—In the Night of the 5th of May we had so severe a Frost, that the next Morning all our Rigging was cased over with such a thick *Ice*, that it was not capable of being worked, till the Ice was beaten off from the Ropes, which took up several hours of that Forenoon. That *Ice* was nothing else but *congealed Fog*, as we had no Rain or Snow the whole Night. Our Officers computed the Quantity of Ice beaten off from the Rigging of our single Ship, between 6 and 8 Tun Weight. After this, you will not be surprized at my telling you, that we were for 16 Days together without Sight of Land, on Account of the Thickness of the Fog, though we were every Day within a proper Distance to see it, had the Air been tolerably clear. On such a Coast, what can the nicest Vigilance do, without such a Number of Ships as might form a Line of almost equal Length to it?

9. The Remainder of the Troops were debarked from the Transports, that could not conveniently be